

REMARKS

The Office Action raised an issue with regards to the Information Disclosure Statement. In this regard, the description of the Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-144695 is contained in Paragraphs [0004] through [0006] of our specification. Additionally, Figure 8 in our drawings corresponds to this description. Thus, it is believed that there is an adequate written description in English that justifies entrance of Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-144695 in the record.

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 2003-336568 is also a laid-open publication of the Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-144695.

With regards to the remaining utility model publications, the following comments are relevant to these references as follows:

Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 6-16964 (Published May 2, 1994).

This publication discloses a recoil starter including a damper spring (5) which is disposed between a rope reel (2) and a cam (6) engageable with a centrifugal ratchet (9) in such a manner that one end of the damper spring (5) is radially fixed into a recess formed in a bearing portion (2a) of the rope reel (2) and the other end of the damper spring (5) is axially inserted into a groove (6a) formed in the cam (6).

Japanese Utility Model Application Laid-Open Publication No. 2-149872 (Published December 21, 1990). This publication discloses a recoil starter including a damper spring (7) which is arranged between a rope reel (17) and a main body (21) of a one-way clutch mechanism (3) in a manner to be held at opposite ends thereof on the rope reel (17) and the main body (21) of the clutch mechanism (3), respectively.

The Office Action indicated that Claims 1-12 were allowed.

The Office Action rejected Claims 13 and 14 as being anticipated by the *Kawasaki et al.* (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0047786). Claims 15 and 16 were further rejected over the *Kawasaki et al.* reference when taken in view of the *Uhl* (U.S. Patent No. 5,287,832).

Applicant has now amended the independent Claim 13 to define a relationship of the outer peripheral wall of the cam relative to the damper spring and the provision of the openings formed on the outer peripheral wall penetrating through the outer peripheral wall in a radial manner.

The Office Action cited the damper spring 15 shown, for example, in Figure 2 of *Kawasaki et al.*, to be in position between the rope reel 21 and the cam pulley 31. The Office Action contended that the cam pulley 31 further had a recess with a pulley opening purportedly as shown in Figure 3. Thus, the Office Action contended that a part of the pulley 31 would be a recess corresponding to the annular recess of the cam of the present invention.

Referring to Page 11, Paragraph 36, of our specification, and Figure 6, a plurality of openings 27 are formed about the circumference of the outer peripheral wall 26 of the cam 8. The openings 27 penetrate from the inside of the annular recess to the outside. The damper spring 14 is received within and supported by the inner peripheral surfaces of the cam pulley 11. The Office Action considered a part of the pulley 31 in the *Kawasaki et al.* disclosure to be the recess corresponding to the annular recess of the cam of the present invention.

However, the part asserted to be the recess is formed by a slightly conical-shaped and substantially flat disc portion of the pulley 31 and this part does not surround the torsion coil spring 15. That is, unlike Claim 13 of the present invention, the pulley 31 of *Kawasaki et al.* is not provided with an outer peripheral wall which forms a recess for receiving the torsion coil

spring 15 within the inside thereof and which surrounds the torsion coil spring 15. In addition, the pulley 31 includes a cylindrical portion which axially extends from the opposite side of the disc portion thereof remote from the torsion coil spring 15, and the thus formed cylindrical portion is provided thereon with power transmitting protrusions 41 engageable with starting claws 45 of the centrifugal ratchet mechanism 40. This structure of the pulley 31 of *Kawasaki et al.* is different from the features of the cam set forth in Claim 13 of the present invention. Our cam includes an outer peripheral wall which forms the annular recess for receiving therewithin the damper spring and which surrounds the damper spring, and a plurality of openings are formed on the outer peripheral wall of the cam in a manner to penetrate radially the outer peripheral wall so as to define cam pawls between the adjacent openings to be engageable with the ratchet mechanism. Thus, amended Claim 13 of the present invention is not disclosed by *Kawasaki et al.*

In the recoil starter of *Kawasaki et al.*, the power transmitting protrusions 41 are provided on an outer surface of the cylindrical portion of the pulley 31, in which the cylindrical portion is closed by the substantially flat disc portion at a proximal end thereof and is open at a distal end thereof. The cylindrical portion of the pulley 31 has no flange portion that extends radially outwards from the distal end thereof. That is, *Kawasaki et al.* does not disclose the features set forth in Claim 14 of the present invention. Accordingly, Claim 14 is also not anticipated by *Kawasaki et al.*

With regard to Claims 15 and 16, *Uhl* (U.S. 5,287,832) discloses an outer peripheral support portion between the catch carrier (or cam) 10 and the clutch drum (or rope reel) 6. However, these claims are dependent on Claims 13 and 14, respectively, which have

patentability over the cited reference, *Kawasaki, et al.*, as discussed above. Thus, Claims 15 and 16 are also patentable over any combination of *Kawasaki et al.* and *Uhl*.

It is believed that the case is now in condition for allowance, and an early notification of the same is requested.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview will help further the prosecution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the listed telephone number.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 20, 2005.

By: Sharon Farnus




Signature

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Very truly yours,

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

See the revised replacement sheet for Figures 8, 9A and 9B attached hereto.